



A weekly question/answer column

Is It Too Late To Plant Grass?

Bill Varga answers:*

September is one of the best times to sow lawn seed. The more moderate temperatures at this time of year encourage even germination because it is easier to prevent the seedbed from drying out. Consider these tips for planting.

- Select a good Kentucky Bluegrass blend. Many books and pamphlets recommend Zoysia or Bermuda grass, but these are warm season grasses not suitable for conditions along the Wasatch Front. Baron, Glade, Fylking, Nuggett, Vita and Windsor are some of the high quality, fine-textured bluegrasses that make a good blend.
- A mix may be composed of several grass types. A blend is composed of varieties of the same grass. To determine the type of grasses in your mixture, check the package for seed mixture analysis. The best grasses are listed under the sub-heading "Fine-textured Types." To the right of each type is the percentage of germination you can expect. The germination should be 85 or above. Other sub-headings like "Course Kinds" and other ingredients should read 0.00%. No noxious weeds should be present in the mix.
- Fescues and rye grasses are useful in specific situations. For instance, if you are planting in heavy shade or are anticipating extra heavy traffic in one area, these grasses may be included in your mix. Consult your nurseryman.
- As a rule, clover is not desirable. It tends to take over the grass and will attract bees and become more of a pest than a help.

* Bill Varga is Utah State University Extension Horticulturist